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My name is Melba Coleman, I live in Hazel Park, Michigan. I believe decisions regarding the wolf must be based on the most current scientific data.

Wildlife is an important part of my life.. Sometimes we need to be reminded of how precious our wildlife is. To hear a wolf howl, to stumble upon a track enlightens me to know the wolf is flourishing. They are very important to keep nature balanced and to help sustain our ecosystem. I am not a biologist or do I have a degree in wildlife .What I do have is compassion and the sense to know it is not necessary for the wolf to be designated a game for the DNR to manage wolf conflicts. To educate people about these apex animals - to diminish any myth or negative feeling that people have about wolves is most important to me. All in all, I want to make a difference. Once a wolf is gone from this earth, there is no way of bringing it back. Extinction is forever. The pathway to the future is the pathway you have made.

Hunting / trapping of wolves for RECREATION. With less than 700 wolves in the state there is no scientific need to have a recreational hunt and the DNR acknowledges that the hunting of wolves is biologically complex and many factors must be considered, not just the opinions of those who want a trophy animal.

The approved wolf management plan outlines approaches for managing many wolf-related issues. The approaches were chosen based on scientific evaluation of the potential impacts to the wolf population, their feasibility and their probability of success and because they appear to be acceptable to most Michigan residents.

With all the non-lethal and lethal measures available to control problem wolves, there is no scientific evidence to support the need for a recreational hunting season for wolves. With the delisting of the wolf, the Michigan Wolf Management Plan can now be fully implemented including the issuance of landowner permits when non-lethal measures are ineffective.

The need for peer reviewed research and the need for scientific wolf management is imminent – we have a management plan that is supported by 20 different groups, including hunting groups.. Overall, wolf depredation in Michigan is low. Between 1996 & 2012, there have been less than 250 depredation events. Wolf-related conflicts are often caused by the behavior of a few individual wolves, and management at small scales can often address problems effectively.

Lets give the Wolf Management Plan time to work, there is no need to rush. We need to evaluate the impacts lethal control will have on pack dynamics and population growth before designating the wolf a game animal.

Respectfully,

Melba J. Coleman

1403 E Maxlow Ave.

Hazel Park , MI 48030

248-953-7305

Shadesofblue60@comcast.net